

The Delaplaine Arts Center

Basics

The Delaplaine Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing the Frederick region with educational opportunities and experiences in the visual arts through classes, exhibits, and programs. Established in 1986, the Delaplaine has grown from a grassroots organization to a premier art education facility welcoming more than 75,000 visitors annually. The Delaplaine is located in historic downtown Frederick, Maryland, along beautiful Carroll Creek Linear Park. Each year, visitors can view more than 50 exhibits featuring local, regional, and national artists; participate in more than 250 classes and workshops; and experience dozens of engaging programs for all ages.

As the region's only full-service nonprofit arts center, we are committed to lowering barriers for access and participation by providing art opportunities for all, regardless of economic status, physical ability, race, age, background, or circumstance. Our Community Outreach Initiative reflects our vision that "everyone deserves art," ensuring that quality art experiences are available to various underserved and at-risk audiences. To accomplish this, we actively partner with nonprofits and service organizations such as Alzheimer's Association, Head Start, Centro Hispano, and many others to reach all corners of the community with free art opportunities.

An engaged Board of Trustees and a staff of nine full-time and six part-time staff are supported by more than 45 volunteers who assist in a variety of areas including greeting visitors, educational programs, hanging exhibitions, serving on committees, gardening, event prep, and much more.

Programs

Exhibitions – The Delaplaine has an open proposal process and presents more than 50 solo and group exhibitions each year. Annual exhibitions include the National Juried Exhibition, which draws artists in a variety of media from throughout the U.S. Other annual exhibitions include *Contemporary Innovations*, *Emerging Artists Exhibition*, and the *Over 70 Show*; biennial exhibitions include the *National Juried Photography Exhibition* and the *Veterans Show*. For young artists, the Bettie Awards program and exhibition is offered each spring during Youth Art Month, when students from schools throughout the county participate in the *FCPS Student Art Exhibition*. Additionally, satellite exhibitions are sponsored by the Delaplaine at the Brunswick, Thurmont, and Urbana public libraries. More than 650 adult artists and 350 youth artists exhibit at the Delaplaine each year.

Instruction – More than 250 classes and workshops are offered over four semesters throughout the year. All classes adhere to the Delaplaine's Educational Standards and are taught by adjunct art instructors and working artists. Media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber arts, photography, jewelry making/metalsmithing, sculpture, woodworking, and more. One-day, two-day, and multi-week classes for offered for adults, teens, and kids. The Helen Smith Free Workshops for Kids are offered monthly. The Delaplaine also holds more than 30 morning and afternoon Maryland State certified art camps for kids and teens each summer. Each year, more than 1,500 students participate in educational opportunities at the Delaplaine.

Public Programs – The Delaplaine provides a busy schedule of public programs throughout the year. The monthly Art Matter Artist Talks present exhibiting artists. Art at Noon and Art at Night present programs on a wide range of visual arts topics by artists, art historians, and experts in a variety of fields. Creative Outlet invites kids and adults to drop-in for themed art activities each first Saturday. The Artobus program takes participants to experience noted museums and art collections around the region. Programs are usually held on-site, with some are held virtually, and many are recorded for later viewing. Most public programs are free. Thousands attend our program annually.

Community Outreach – An integral part of the Delaplaine is its Community Outreach Initiative, which reflects our vision that "everyone deserves art." It is a multi-program art education initiative that engages and enriches the lives of residents of the region, targeting the underserved and at-risk in the community. It is accomplished in partnership with a number of partner nonprofit organizations and community groups, directly impacting low-income preschool aged children, middle school aged students from disadvantaged circumstances, mentally and developmentally disabled adults, recovering youth and adults, seniors, and others, through customized educational experiences. Programs are offered both on- and off-site and are usually provided free of charge. The Art Kit Project provides quality art supplies to homeless youth and youth in crisis through our nonprofit partners. Hundreds of local residents participate in these programs each year.

Stewardship

The Delaplaine maintains a balanced budget and is debt free. The Delaplaine derives its support primarily from the community through private donations and competitive grants. We strive for a varied income support structure to promote impact, stability, and longevity, and receive support from investments, earned income, and limited public support. We also hold an annual fundraising gala, our biggest event of the year and a fun and creative gathering that has become a community favorite. The organization receives an independent financial audit each year.

Kudos

The Delaplaine is proud to be accredited in the Standards for Excellence program by the Standards for Excellence Institute, a national program that promotes the highest standards of ethics, effectiveness, and accountability in nonprofit governance, management, and operations. The Delaplaine has also been awarded Platinum Seal Status by Guidestar USA and is included in the 2021/2022 Catalog for Philanthropy as one of the best nonprofits in the DC Metro region. We are regularly awarded Best Art Gallery by the readers of the *Frederick News-Post* and *Frederick Magazine*.

Quick Facts

The Delaplaine is open daily—more than 355 days each year—and admission is always free. Come and explore:

- 5 main galleries, showcasing works by regional and national artists
- 2 community art galleries, featuring works created by local groups, schools, and nonprofit partners
- 7 spacious studios, including woodworking and ceramics, housing classes for all ages
- One of Maryland's largest, free, art reference libraries regularly open to the public
- The Art History Timeline and Our Industrial Past panel exhibitions
- The Gift Gallery, featuring artworks on commission by more than 70 local artists and artisans
- The most popular and reasonably priced event venue in downtown Frederick
- The historic Mountain City Mill building, an adaptive reuse success story
- *Delaplaine Arts* magazine, a free quarterly that is the most widely distributed publication in Frederick County